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SUBJECT The Defense Budget

ROGER MUDD: The current debate over the MX missile is only part of the much larger argument revolving around the \$233 billion U.S. defense budget. Is cost the best way to measure military parity with the Soviet Union, or is the best way the quality of the weapons?

Here's John Hart's Special Segment.

JOHN HART: Red Square, Moscow. The Red Army shouts hurrah. It is a celebration of power, a demonstration to the world of the growth of Soviet arms, and a justification to the Soviet people for their sacrifices to pay for it.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: The combination of the Soviets spending more and the United States spending proportionately less changed the military balance and weakened our deterrent.

HART: For President Reagan, what the Pentagon spends is an important measure of our strength or weakness. He campaigned on that belief and went to the White House with it: The Russians are outspending us.

When he came into office there was across the street in the Office of Management and Budget a defense spending analyst named Richard Stubbing who had served three previous Presidents. Nixon, Ford and Carter, he reports, decided on defense strategy first and then asked what it would cost. Stubbing, now at Duke University, says this Administration did it the other way around.

RICHARD STUBBING: They decided one evening to settle out at a \$30 billion add-on for the defense budget, without strategy, without priorities. And the services were then told